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Resolution Advocates Biographical Information

The following is a list of biographical information for the Resolution Advocates who have been selected to serve on the BDRP Panel. The background information was submitted by the applicants, and is provided without comment by the Court.

Not all panel members are willing to serve in all divisions. Please check the Resolution Advocates Availability list to select a Resolution Advocate and alternate in your area.

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Apply

Ahrens, Michael

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton

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San Francisco, CA 94111

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Email: mahrens@sheppardmullin.com

Occupation: Attorney

Education: B.A., University of San Francisco, 1967; J.D., University of San Francisco, 1969

ADR Training: U.S. Bankruptcy Court Training (Rosenberg) - 18 hrs.

ADR Style: Caucus, Collaborative, Facilitative. Will do evaluative if parties desire. Will also do settlement facilitation and early neutral evaluation.

Advocate Location(s): [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#), [San Jose](#), [Santa Rosa](#)

Alarcon, Carlos J.

716 Primrose Lane

Phone: (707) 319-2113

Benicia, CA 94510

Email: cjarcon@thealarcongroup.com

Website: <http://www.thealarcongroup.com>

Occupation: Mediator

Areas of Specialization: Real Estate Foreclosure Mediation, Complex Financial Transaction Dispute Resolution, Commercial Dispute Resolution, and e-Discovery Dispute Resolution

Education: Pitzer College of the Claremont Colleges, Claremont, CA Bachelor of Arts, Communications; Columbia University, New York, New York Pre-Certification for Professional Practice, Mediation and Conflict Resolution; University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA Certification for Professional Practice, Mediation and Conflict Resolution

ADR Training: Columbia University New York, NY; University of California Berkeley, CA; Stanford University - Gould Center for Law Palo Alto, CA; Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution; Pepperdine University School of Law, Malibu, CA

ADR Style: The approach preferred for financial matters is facilitative at the outset converting to a formulaic economic/financial analysis and then evaluative as interests and goals begin to be described in terms of financial objectives and outcomes. A collaborative approach is most useful while parties are still setting goals and clarifying legal and personal positions. However, a more directive approach is often advanced as parties near agreement. Caucuses are highly effective as negotiations become more focused and after extensive exploration of alternatives and options by both parties have been completed while convening.

Advocate Location(s): [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#), [San Jose](#), [Santa Rosa](#)

Spoken Languages: Conversant in Spanish

Ames, Claude

Law Offices of Claude Ames

3776 Shafter Avenue
Oakland, CA 94609

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Occupation: Attorney, Mediator, Arbitrator

Education: B.S., University of California, Berkeley, 1974; J.D., University of California, Hastings, 1977

ADR Training: American Arbitration and Mediation Service; Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service; National Academy of Arbitrators; annual required training (20 hours); plus 100+ hours of prior training in mediation, fact finding dispute resolution

ADR Style: Informal and informative process of mediation procedure, setting forth

mediator's role, duties, expectations, authority and lack thereof. Will caucus separately with parties when necessary to clarify positions, offer suggestions, confidentiality, create fair objective environment for resolution of dispute.

Advocate Location(s): [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#)

Barrett, Kathryn E.

Silicon Valley Law Group

50 W. San Fernando Street, Suite 750
San Jose, CA 95113

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Occupation: Attorney

Areas of Specialization: Bankruptcy, business, commercial, labor/employment, partnerships & real estate

Education: B.A., University of California Berkeley (1982); J.D., Santa Clara University School of Law (1992)

ADR Training: University of California Berkeley: Mediation & Conflict Resolution Seminar (Kelly) - 40 hours

ADR Style: Caucus, collaborative, facilitative, evaluative where called for circumstance.

Advocate Location(s): [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#), [San Jose](#)

Benvenuti, Peter J.

Keller & Benvenuti LLP

650 California Street, 19th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94108

Phone: (415) 364-6798

Fax: (650) 636-9251

Email: pbenvenuti@kellerbenvenuti.com

Occupation: Attorney

Education: Harvard College (B.A., cum laude, 1971); University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law (J.D., 1974)

ADR Training: ABI/St John's University Law School - 40 hours

Advocate Location(s): [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#)

Bostick, Mark

Wendel, Rosen, Black & Dean

1111 Broadway, 24th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Phone: (510) 834-6600**Fax:** (510) 834-1928**Email:** mbostick@wendel.com**Occupation:** Bankruptcy Attorney**Education:** B.A., University of California, Berkeley, 1978; J.D., University of San Francisco, 1983**ADR Training:** 40 Hours Mediation Training, Steven Rosenberg**ADR Style:** Caucus; collaborative; evaluative; facilitative; arbitration**Advocate Location(s):** [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#), [San Jose](#)**Spoken Languages:** Some Hebrew

Boven, Douglas

Reed Smith LLP

101 2nd Street, Suite 1800
San Francisco, CA 94105

Phone: (415) 533-9548**Fax:** (415) 391-8269**Email:** dougboven.law@gmail.com**Occupation:** Attorney**Education:** B.S., University of Michigan (1965); J.D., University of Michigan (1969)**ADR Training:** US Bankruptcy Court (YEED) - 6 hrs. Rosenberg - 18 hrs.**ADR Style:** Caucus, collaborative. Will do ENE**Advocate Location(s):** [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#), [Santa Rosa](#)

Burns, Thomas R.

703 Market St., Suite 1109
San Francisco, CA 94103

Phone: (415) 543-9900**Fax:** (415) 543-9449**Email:** tom@tburnslaw.com**Occupation:** Attorney

Areas of Specialization: Consumer & Business Bankruptcy Ch 13 & 7 Representing Debtors and Creditors

Education: B.S., Ball State University, 1981; J.D., Golden Gate University, School of Law 1990, Law Review, Dean's List

ADR Training: 40 Hrs. - Theories and Practice of Mediation (Steven Rosenberg)

ADR Style: Depends on circumstances and preferences of parties, but generally my mediation approach includes caucus, collaborative and facilitative methods - creative and flexible problem solving with focus on listening and understanding positions. Evaluative if requested by parties.

Advocate Location(s): [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#), [San Jose](#), [Santa Rosa](#)

Califano, Peter

Cooper, White & Cooper
201 California Street, 17th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111

Phone: (415) 433-1900
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Occupation: Attorney

Areas of Specialization: Bankruptcy, equipment leasing, real estate and personal property foreclosure and UCC transactions

Education: B.A., State University of New York - Buffalo, 1981; J.D., Santa Clara University - 1987

ADR Training: Court Alternatives Group (formerly ADRA) - 40 hours; John Paul Jones Group - 20 hours; Early Neutral Evaluation, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California - 8 hours; Using Mediation Effectively: Avoiding Costly Mistakes - 3 hours; Advanced Mediation - 5 Hours

ADR Style: Classic Mediation (facilitative, collaborative and caucus) and available if necessary, for evaluative approach.

Advocate Location(s): [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#), [San Jose](#), [Santa Rosa](#)

File:  [Resume: Peter Califano](#)

Chism, Guy David

Chism Law Offices

Phone: (650) 386-1557

PO Box 550308
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96155

Fax: (925) 293-0671
Email: guychism@mac.com

Occupation: Attorney

Education: B.A., Oral Roberts University, 1984; J.D., New College School of Law, 2004

ADR Training: 45 Hours Mediation Training, New College

ADR Style: Understanding-Based approach to conflict

Advocate Location(s): [San Jose](#)

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